

**Nicholas Skytland, Project Manager, EVA Physiology, Systems, and Performance Project (EPSP), NASA Johnson Space Center**



Nicholas Skytland is a project manager at NASA who is passionate about developing an open innovation framework within NASA to offer individuals, academia, companies, and space agencies around the world the opportunity to directly contribute to space exploration. Skytland is the project manager of the EVA Physiology, Systems and Performance Project (EPSP), and the deputy project manager of the Digital Astronaut Project, within the Space Life Sciences Directorate at Johnson Space Center (JSC). His work includes planning future lunar architectures, designing the next generation space suits, and developing an open-source computational model to simulate human responses to spaceflight and reduced gravity environments.

In 2008, Skytland also served as the Technical Assistant to the Deputy Associate Administrator for Strategic Partnerships where he was responsible for developing nontraditional partnerships for NASA. Prior to his position in Space Life Sciences, Skytland worked in the Mission Operations Directorate at the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory where he was the facility interface for training operations and coordinated astronaut extravehicular activity (EVA) training and provided real-time flight support for International Space Station (ISS) and Space Shuttle programs. In 2004, Skytland worked for the X PRIZE Foundation and was instrumental in the planning and support of the first privately funded, manned space launch event of SpaceShipOne in the Mojave Desert. Skytland has helped coach and train people to experience the excitement of weightlessness through the Zero G Corporation.

Skytland holds a master's degree from the International Space University in Space Studies and a bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University in Mechanical Engineering. He is currently pursuing an MBA degree at the University of Texas. Skytland serves on the executive committee for the American Astronautical Society, as well as for Yuri's Night. In October 2008, Skytland was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from Valparaiso University.